

Claims

1. A system for the administration of a powdered medicament by inhalation, the system comprising a container containing a unit dose of medicament in powder form, the container having at least one dispensing aperture, and a device having a chamber adapted to receive said container, the device further comprising air inlet means by which air may be drawn into the chamber and means by which air and entrained medicament may be drawn out of the chamber, wherein the system is arranged such that the container, in use, is stationary within the chamber.
2. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the device is provided with means for storing the container, whilst sealing the at least one aperture, means for introducing the container into the chamber, and means for holding the container stationary within the chamber.
3. A system as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the system comprises a device and a plurality of medicament containers.
4. A system as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the means for storing the container and introducing the container into the chamber take the form of an enclosure of deformable material arranged such that manual pressure introduces the container to the chamber.
5. A system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the container is physically attached to the enclosure.
6. A system as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the container is formed with a projection that extends through an opening in the enclosure.
7. A system as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the container is bonded to the enclosure.

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8. A system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the container and/or the chamber are provided with formations that are effective in holding the container in a stationary position once the container has been introduced into the chamber.

5 9. A system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the container is held stationary by virtue of being captivated between opposing parts of the chamber after being released from the enclosure.

10 10. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the means by which air and entrained medicament are withdrawn from the chamber comprises one or more apertures formed in a wall of the chamber.

11. A system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the apertures and the air inlet means are sealed prior to use by a removable sealing membrane.

15 12. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 4 to 11, wherein the enclosure and container form a medicament package which may be removed from the delivery device.

20 13. A system as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the medicament package comprises a rigid support to which the enclosure is bonded, and the device is provided with receiving means with which the rigid support can be engaged.

25 14. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the chamber is circular in form.

30 15. A system as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the air inlet means are arranged such that air enters the chamber substantially tangentially so as to facilitate the emptying of the container.

16. A system as claimed in any one preceding claim, wherein the device is provided with a plurality of air inlets opening into the chamber at substantially equiangularly spaced positions.

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17. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the medicament container is cylindrical.
- 5 18. A system as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the diameter of the cylinder is comparable to or greater than its depth.
19. A system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the depth of the cylinder is equal to or less than its diameter.
- 10 20. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the medicament container is provided with a plurality of dispensing apertures.
- 15 21. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 4 to 20, wherein the enclosure is of elastomeric material.
22. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the medicament container is of plastics material.